Productions at VSP

2222. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vizag Steel Plant has reduced its production; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof with action plan to overcome the bottlenecks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Steel exports to China

2223. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China opened its doors for importing Steel from India and Other countries of the world;

(b) if so, whether Beijing has issued any import quota for us;

(c) if so, for how long this quota system is valid;

(d) the total potential of steel India can export to China before quota system closes; and

(e) how Government are planning to grab the opportunity of exporting steel to China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In May 2002, China initiated safeguard investigations against import of various categories of steel from several countries, including India. In November 2002 the investigations were completed

and final safeguard measures in the form of quotas on five categories of steel items were imposed with additional tariff in case the imports exceed the relevant quota. These measures would be in place for the next two and a half years. However, these measures do not apply to India.

(d) In accordance with the WTO rules China has exempted the developing countries, including India from the safeguard measures. However, the exemption is subject to the condition that import share of a developing country in a particular category should not exceed 3% of China's total import volume in that category.

(e) A delegation led by the Minister of State for Steel visited China from May 18-23, 2002. The purpose of the visit was to explore opportunities of cooperation in the Iron and Steel sector. At times, the public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Steel and delegations to China to promote exports, source raw materials and explore areas of co-operation. Apart from these Ministry and PSU initiatives, the Embassy of India, Beijing has also identified products which are in demand under the Harmonised System Code 72 (Iron and Steel) in the Chinese market and the necessary information has been forwarded to the concerned Indian Chambers of Commerce/Export Councils and industry players active in the field of Iron and Steel. The Indian Steel Alliance, working under the aegis of the confederation of India Industry (Cll), has already initiated talks with the Chinese government and steel companies in China to increase trade between the two countries.

The Ministry is thus actively involved in various promotional efforts in consultation with the industry and their Associations. The Government is fully discharging its role as a facilitator in a liberalised environment and helping the industry to adequately exploit the market potential.

Expansion of VSP

2224. DR. M.N. DAS: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a blue print for the expansion of the Vizag Steel Plant